

Morocco desert locust update for the 2nd dekad of November 2006

Meteorological and ecological conditions

Generally stable and hot climate persisted during the second dekad of November. Only light showers occurred in the north Atlantic planes. Minimum temperatures varied between 9 and 13° C in the interior of the country and 15 to 20° C in the southern provinces. Maximum temperatures oscillated between 32 and 36° C in the southern provinces. Northerly and northeasterly winds dominated the south while variable winds persisted in the interior of the country.

Annual vegetation is green and ecological conditions are favorable for survival and reproduction in the Awsserd region (22°28'N/01°21'W) and Al Beggary (23°22'N/14°21'W) where rains fell in September, but dry in the southeast of the anti-Atlas, the north Saharan provinces and up to the 25th parallel.

Locust situation

CNLAA reported hatching in Maatallah localities (26°50'N/12°51'W), Dakhla zone where transient and gregarious groups and patches of 2nd to 5th instar hoppers at about 30 insects/m² were dispersed on some 50 ha. Isolated mature and immature adults were detected on two ha in Aaraguia Awsserd (22°39'N/14°19'W) areas. No locusts were seen in Oued sakia El Hamra, Laayoune region or the surrounding areas in the second dekad of November.

Control

Patches of 2nd to 5th instar hoppers were controlled on 48 ha by ground means on 16 and 17 November in the southwest.

Forecast

As a result of the presence of hoppers in areas where conditions are favorable, adult locusts could be seen and augmented in southern Morocco in the coming weeks. AELGA will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates as often as necessary.

:/Sitrep 2006/Morocco DL update for dekad 2 Nov. 06